MEDIA RELEASE
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ACPET Welcomes Continued Federal Investment in Skills Reform

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today commended the Federal Government on its decision to bring forward the establishment of the National Workforce and Productivity Agency, with the peak body saying it was vital the Government work with the education and training sectors to combat skills shortages that continue to dog Australian businesses.

Commenting on the announcement, by Minister for Skills and Jobs, Senator Chris Evans’, of Skills Connect – a range of initiatives designed to consolidate the Government’s skills programs and better target industry and worker training – ACPET CEO, Claire Field, said fast tracking the measures originally announced in the Federal Budget was the right thing to do.

“Australian businesses need solutions to skills challenges right now if we are to maintain our comparatively strong economy and ward off the economic calamity witnessed in some other parts of the world,” Ms Field said.

“A dynamic and responsive training sector, supported by skills policy that is developed in partnership with industry, are vital to helping unskilled Australians transition from being unemployed or under employed to a more skilled, more employable, person.”

Ms Field said ACPET and its members were eager to work hand-in-hand with the Federal Government on the development and implementation of Skills Connect initiatives, and to ensure the changes help the education and training sector to be more responsive to the needs of students and industry.

“ACPET reiterates its support for the Australian Government’s skills reforms, and in particular, investment in language, literacy and numeracy programs, which we are confident ACPET members will continue to deliver to a very high standard,” Ms Field said.

“Our members will work with the Government as these critical initiatives are implemented.”

“Our hope is that the National Workforce and Productivity Agency delivers real outcomes for Australian industry and students, without adding unnecessary bureaucratic burden that takes us further away from the nimble, responsive, flexible training sector modern industry needs and modern students want.”

Media Contact: Ben Eade, 0406 641 881